

Louisiana Law Review

Volume 32 | Number 1

December 1971

In Memoriam: Beverly Denbo Walker

Repository Citation

In Memoriam: Beverly Denbo Walker, 32 La. L. Rev. (1971)

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Beverly Denbo Walker

1919-1972

In Memoriam

As this issue of the Review goes to press, the Law School, its Faculty and Staff, and especially its Board of Editors, are saddened and shocked beyond measure at the sudden and unexpected passing after a brief illness of Mrs. Beverly Denbo Walker on Wednesday, June 21, 1972. This issue of the Review is affectionately dedicated to the memory of its "Beverly" who was an inextricable part of the institutional life of the *Louisiana Law Review*. The Review, on behalf of the entire Law School, extends deep sympathy to Beverly's beloved husband, Charles E. Walker, to her mother, Mrs. B. E. Denbo, and to the other members of the family, all who were so near and dear to her.

It was only a week before her death that Beverly was in her office as usual, reading galley proof, as indeed she has done with each previous issue of the Review going back to Volume 3, when she first served as Editorial Assistant. During many years of dedicated service at Louisiana State University she served with thirty student editors-in-chief and with numerous Faculty editors. As those "on the Law Review" came, worked, and left for professional endeavors, each occupied a special place in Beverly's heart and indelible memory and to each successive Board of Student Editors she held a unique position in their regard and appreciation for her careful and exacting guidance which constantly operated as a guaranty of the quality she always sought for the Review as a symbol of the work of the LSU Law School. When that quality "passed muster" with a particular issue, Beverly and Charlie were always especially delighted with the Faculty and the Law Review group, to join in a traditional, informal social gathering in celebration of the addition of another item to a long list of accomplishments associated with the Review. Much law was talked out with the Faculty on such occasions. Many graduates of the Law School who read these brief lines will recall the Law Review work and its functions referred

to, and over which Beverly presided with the same grace and personality that were the hallmarks of her entire life's work, devoted as it was to the *Louisiana Law Review*.

Mrs. Walker was employed by the *Louisiana Law Review* in February of 1940. Her work thus spanned more than 32 years. She was noted for her buoyancy and her interest in the careers she was helping to build through her expertise as an editor charged with responsibility for varied and numerous technical details as the Review grew from its fledgling status into maturity. Exceptionally capable and devoted to her work, she refused to compromise in her insistence upon a high degree of perfection before sending student products on for publication. She was an avid reader, even bringing broadened horizons to her daily tasks. She was a specialist skilled in what Boyd Professor Malone once referred to as "the very delicate matter of maintaining the good will, enthusiasm and cooperation of the members of the Law Review Board upon whom this success of the publication depends." The standard of excellence for which she stood is reflected today in the work product of many a lawyer and even judges who, when thinking back to their study of law, affectionately remember Mrs. Beverly Walker and their days of association with her in the work of the *Louisiana Law Review*.

The Law Review has lost one of its prized possessions. It will be hard indeed to envision the offices of the Review without the presence of Beverly Walker. Her imprint can never be erased from the Review. Although she has left the *Louisiana Law Review* her rich legacy remains in a spirit that can never die.

June 21, 1972